

RUSSIA.

A Government Which Amuses the People, but Does Little for Their Education.

The Theaters of St. Petersburg, and the Manner in Which They Are Conducted.

A Foundling's Home Which Shelters Twenty-four Thousand Abandoned Babies.

Mammoth Residences of the Russian Millionaires and Their Sumptuous Entertainments.

[BY WILLIAM ELLERY CURTIS.]

One of the most important public establishments in Petersburg is known as "The Foundling Home." It is a vast building, and those who are familiar with such institutions in the United States will be astonished at its dimensions and extent of its usefulness. The building occupies 26,325 square fathoms of ground, and last year over seven thousand fatherless babies were received under its sheltering wings from a city of 700,000 inhabitants. This is one baby for each 100 of the population, counting all who appear in the census, and about nineteen daily for every one of the 365 days in the year. It will be recognized not only as a pretty high average, but as an index to the morals of the people. It should be said, however, that it is claimed that girls who have forgotten to get married come to St. Petersburg from all over the empire, knowing that their babies here will receive excellent care, and grow up among much greater comforts than they would know if they remained with their mothers. There is also claimed that many legitimate children are brought here by mothers to whom they were not welcome, so as to be rid of their care, but it is nevertheless the fact that the percentage of nine-tenths of the children is unknown, and no questions are asked by the nuns who conduct the institution.

How to Get Rid of a Baby.
Children are received at the gates at all hours of the day or night. All a woman has to do is to deposit the little half-orphan in a basket always kept in the vestibule for the purpose and pull a bell, which summons an attendant to take the child. No attempt is made to recall the mother, or whoever left the child, but the wall is taken in and cared for. The mother may come around the next morning and apply for employment as a nurse, as many of them do, and usually gets her own baby to take care of, for the good-hearted nuns always let them take their pick of the new arrivals, and it is not unusual for a natural mother who does not recognize her own. Often a tag is attached to the neck of the child, or a paper pinned to its clothing, telling what its name is; but there is no such information as the nuns call the child after some saint, give him a bath, dress him in coarse but clean garments, put a rubber band around his neck with a tag attached, on which is a number, and then notify the bookkeeper of the circumstances attending the arrival. These are noted down on the books, together with the name given to the child, and any clothing found upon it is bundled up, labeled with the youngster's number, and stowed away for purposes of identification. Those who have a cross around their necks are accepted as having received the rites of the church, but those who have not are sent at once to the priest to be baptized before they get their supper.

Twenty-four Thousand Foundlings.
There are 24,000 children in the institution, which is a lower average than usual, and there is a similar hospital at Moscow, in which are 18,000, increasing at the rate of over three thousand a year. There is a lying-in asylum connected with both of the homes, and its beds are always full of poor girls.

What becomes of the children? Many are adopted by childless families; there is scarcely a day that several bright-eyed little ones are not taken out for this purpose; others when they reach an age when they can be made useful to the army, many of the girls are trained for nurses in the hospitals, and lots of them are saved by death from a worse fate. The mortality in the institution is very large, although every possible care is taken of the children, and they are much better off than in the homes where they were born.

The institution was founded by Catherine the Great, who had a number of illegitimate children herself—no one knows how many—and had a kindly heart toward the unfortunate from any cause.
Catherine founded another hospital, which stands on the banks of the Neva, and is one of the most conspicuous landmarks of the river, being situated at the head of a wide curve where its vast proportions can be seen from all directions. It is a front of 600 feet, is 400 feet wide, and has 630 beds, which are free to those who cannot afford to pay. Those who are not paupers are charged a small entrance fee, and are required to pay such a sum weekly as corresponds with their accommodations. There are several other fine hospitals in Petersburg with an average of 4,250 patients, all cared for by sisters of Charity.

The Russian Theaters.
There are five public theaters in the city, with any number of cafe chantants and other less reputable places of amusement. The Imperial Theater, which fronts the park in which the great monument to Catherine stands, and which is the private palace of the emperor, is a fine building, seating 3,000 people, and is occupied each winter by one of the best Italian opera companies in Europe. The Russians are famous for their musical taste, and are satisfied with nothing but the best that can be obtained. A large sum is devoted by the Government each year as a subsidy to the opera, and the high prices charged are sufficient to command the best talent. All the great singers of the last and present centuries have appeared here in opera, and one who reads their biographies will learn of the enthusiasm and royal gifts with which they have been received. The

opera house at Petersburg.
Greatest jewels Patti has been presented her in Petersburg.
Attached to the theater is a school, also under the patronage of the Government and liberally subsidized, for the education of singers, actresses, and ballet dancers, there being as many as a thousand pupils each winter in the various classes. During the summer the corps de ballet, with much of the scenery and stage machinery, is transferred to an open-air theater on one of the islands of the Neva, where spectacular productions are given with the greatest magnificence. These performances are also

subsidized by the Government, which does everything possible for the entertainment of the people, but little for their education. This is a policy of statesmanship, a theory of political economy, that subsidizes the ballet and prohibits free public schools!

A Russian Ballet.

Nowhere in the world are ballets and kindred spectacles given with greater magnifi-



FIRST-CLASS COUNTRY VILLA.

cence than in Petersburg, and the summer prices are merely nominal. I saw at the summer theater to which I have alluded the spectacle of the "Last Days of Pompeii," given in the presence of eight or ten thousand spectators in a style that surpassed anything I had seen at the Grand Opera House in Paris or Vienna, or the Alhambra

During the winter a portion of the river is always kept clear of snow for skating, just as the parks in summer are kept clear of leaves and rubbish by the police, and of late the ice has been illuminated by electricity. Crowds of people gather each evening—the young on skates and the elderly on cushioned chairs set on runners, with bands of military music to entertain them. As the nights are long in winter, the sun setting at 3 or 4 o'clock in the afternoon and at midwinter not rising until 9 or 10 in the morning, such methods of killing time are very popular. The people are leisurely, like the French, at all seasons. The shops do

not open till 9 o'clock, and it is useless to seek a business man at his office before 11. Then he leaves for his home at 4, and does not reappear until evening. I also saw "Excelsior" given in similar style, with elephants, lions, camels, and other animals on the stage with a whole troupe of cavalrymen. The cost of witnessing this performance, to those who stood on their feet, was thirty copecks—less than fifteen cents—while the best seats, under the footlights, were only five cents. Second-rate seats were thirty. Five and third-rate twenty cents, but only about one-fourth of the audience was seated. The remainder stood in an arena



AWAITING THE DOWRY'S ORDERS.

behind the seats, with an inclined plane for a floor, so raised that everybody could see.
Attached to this summer theater, and others like it in the same neighborhood, were cafes, billiard-rooms, bowling-alleys, and other forms of amusement, which are crowded every evening for the summer of Petersburg, and the populace makes the most of them during the season of two months and a half. The islands are covered with cafes chantants, concert halls, dance houses, and low resorts, which during the summer months are always thronged with the lower classes. Several lines of street cars run to them from the city, and every convenience is offered for the gratification of the low tastes of the common people.

The Marie Theater, so called from its founder, the Empress Marie, wife of Paul, is the home of the native talent, operas and plays in the Russian language being given exclusively. The company is recruited from the school at the opera-house, and the theater is managed by the same director, being also subsidized by the Government.

At the Alexander Theater comedy is given exclusively, in all languages, some of the best old English plays being occasionally presented, although the greater part of the performances are in Russian and French.

There is usually a comic-opera company engaged at the Bouffe Theater during the winter, with French performers, and it is one of the most liberally patronized houses in town, although under private management. Several other minor theaters supply any lack of amusement during the season.

The United States Legation.
But the most enjoyable amusement in Petersburg is driving—in droshkies during the summer over the fine roads and in sledges during the winter season over the snow or ice of the Neva. The hand-carried residences front the river upon either the English or the imperial quays. The former is lined with royal palaces, the latter a little farther along is the fashionable residence street, and upon it the United States legation is situated.
I may say here that our Minister to Russia, Mr. G. V. N. Lothrop of Detroit, is one of the most popular and highly esteemed of the diplomatic corps, both because of his ability and for his personal traits. He is a man of genial dignity, and although somewhat past the age when men seek honors and brilliant career at home by receiving the homage he is entitled to at one of the finest courts of Europe.
Many of the residences along the quay are

of enormous size and might shelter an army. The entertainments given in them during the winter with the splendor of those of the palaces, for there is no city in Europe where the homes of the rich are equipped with such sumptuousness, nor where so great an effort is made in the direction of display. Whether a rich Russian is at home, or in London, or in Paris, his balls and dinners are proverbial for their elegance, and they have natural gifts for entertainment. But it is in Petersburg that they are seen at their best, for the rivalry among the leading families is very great, and each tries to outstrip the other in the introduction of novelties in hospitality and in parlor spectacles. I was shown a palace in which the floors were once flooded with water, frozen, and decorated with evergreens for a skating party given indoors by the light of thousands of wax tapers. Ladies and gentlemen skate as they dance, and this evening the rule was for the ladies to appear in white furs and the gentlemen in dark. After the skating was over the guests were led to the upper rooms of the house, where they threw off their wraps and sat down in ball dresses to a sumptuous banquet.

The Winter Amusements.

During the winter a portion of the river is always kept clear of snow for skating, just as the parks in summer are kept clear of leaves and rubbish by the police, and of late the ice has been illuminated by electricity. Crowds of people gather each evening—the young on skates and the elderly on cushioned chairs set on runners, with bands of military music to entertain them. As the nights are long in winter, the sun setting at 3 or 4 o'clock in the afternoon and at midwinter not rising until 9 or 10 in the morning, such methods of killing time are very popular. The people are leisurely, like the French, at all seasons. The shops do

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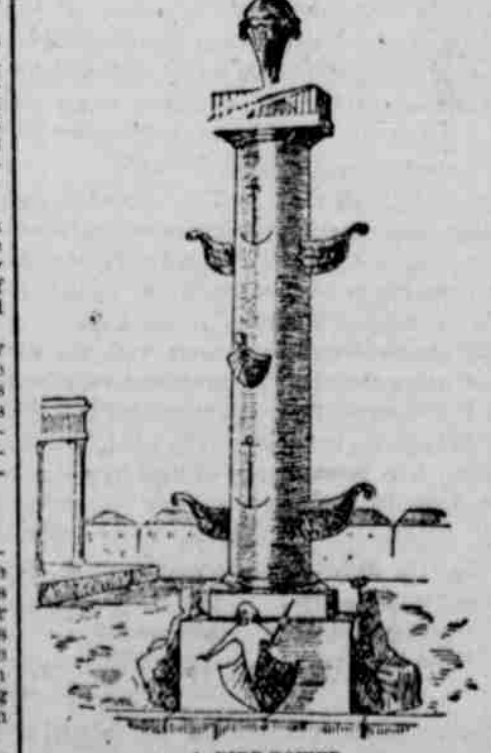
Bank cashiers and cashiers for the larger stores and business houses are employed directly by the banker or merchant, but are furnished by the Arel, a sort of guaranty society, from its list of members. The bank applies to the director of the Arel for a voter, and a cashier is named. If he has a different man this week from that he had last, he has no option in the matter except where he applies for a particular person and is assigned him. The guaranty or trust company becomes responsible for the honesty and the accuracy of the cashier, whose wages are paid to the company and not to the man. But while he is in the bank he is the master of its funds. The President himself, or the sole proprietor, cannot get at the cash box nor the vaults as long as he is a patron of the society. Every dollar that is paid into the bank goes into the cage, and not a dollar can be taken out without a check, which the cashier keeps as his voucher. He issues certificates of deposit to the depositor and a duplicate to the bank from which the books are noted. The owner of the institution can find out from his books what is in the vaults, but he cannot count it until the trust company is relieved of responsibility.
If financial gentlemen who read this will think over the Russian plan I believe they will decide that it is a good one. At least it removes all temptation for tampering with books from tellers and other employees, and the funds of depositors as well as the stockholders are insured. No bank president, nor cashier, nor other employee can rob the institution without the co-operation of the trust company and the shifting of cashiers, like the shifting of policemen, prevents collusion.

The Fire Towers.
Conspicuous on the city are peculiar-looking towers, rising far above the roofs of the houses, and crowned with flag-staffs, to which tackle is attached. These are the fire-towers, ancient institutions still retained as lookouts for watchmen, who, when a fire-alarm is given, run up a red ball in day light, a red lantern at night, with a system of signals by which it may be known where the danger exists. It is a clumsy and inefficient way of operating a fire department, and is about the only feature of the administrative system in which the Russians have not introduced modern improvements. They have electric lights and telephones, but their system of fire-alarm has been used since the time of Peter the Great.

The telephone is in common use. One can find instruments in every hotel and in the dwellings of the rich and the poor, and this convenience is already extensive and rapidly increasing in private houses. The electric light is also popular, and has been introduced into many of the public buildings and palaces. There are over three thousand lights in the Winter Palace. The streets are lighted with gas, generally, and are as brilliant as those of Paris, while electric lamps are used in front of the hotels, theaters, restaurants, and other places of resort. The summer gardens are also lighted with them. The streets are not disfigured with telegraph poles, but the wires are strung on brackets attached to the walls of the houses. As the brackets are of ornamental patterns, they do not mar the architecture.

Most of the banking houses and the offices of the wholesale merchants are in the neighborhood of the exchange. The system of doing wholesale business is somewhat peculiar. A wholesale dealer in dry-goods,

or crockery, or groceries, has his office and a line of samples near the exchange, and there receives his customer, who buys by sample, his orders being filled at the warehouse. The dealer is not paid until the proprietor and his one or two assistants receive the customer as he calls, and if he is a large buyer they invite him to a chat, and



A FIRE TOWER.

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a cup of tea. Then the samples are sent for and the bargain made while sipping the beverage. The public sees only a half-dozen persons or so representing the house. There may be a dozen book-keepers and corresponding clerks somewhere else, and at the warehouse may be a hundred or more porters, but the buyer never meets them. The banking houses are usually upon the



A BANK CASHIER.

second or the third floor of a building, and whoever has business is invited into a drawing-room, handsomely furnished, and invited to take a chair and read the morning paper or the last review. Pretty soon the banker or one of his clerks appears, to see what is wanted. If you wish to have a draft cashed, the banker or his clerk retires again, and after awhile returns with the paper drawn for your signature. Then as you return it to him he hands you a memorandum made out in duplicate, one copy to be retained by you and the other to be handed to the cashier, who is a uniformed personage sitting in an iron cage, and does nothing but handle the money.

The cashier in a Russian bank is not a person of as much importance as the man who has a similar title in an American bank. He simply looks after the cash, is a sort of paying and receiving teller combined, and his room is entirely distinct from the rest of the bank. He enters his cage at the opening of office hours, and does not leave it till the bank closes.

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About Soups.
The French preparation of soups is perfect in the care taken to remove all grease, which is allowed to rise to the surface and become hard, then being removed in a solidified mass. The French avoid noodle, lobster, and mock-turtle soups, and they do not use vegetable or macaroni. Delicately organized persons take salfy oyster, potato, gumbo, rice, cauliflower, pure of bean soup. If eggs are added to soup, it will be richer and more nutritious. Excellent forcemeat balls for game and mock-turtle soups are easily made: Rub to a paste the yolks of five hard-boiled eggs; season with salt and butter, and add these to the soup five minutes before boiling. The French make their soup the day before it is to be used, giving ample time for the fat to rise, harden, and be removed. Before serving the next day it may be thickened with rice, flour, or whatever is preferred. To prepare a lunch bouillon, a soup-bone of five or six pounds is required; cut the meat into small pieces, crack the bones, and turn it all into two quarts of cold water; let it simmer for five hours, when the strength will be taken from the meat; remove all the fat and strain through a sieve; it should boil down to ten cups, then season with salt and pepper. This served in cups. Another more elaborate bouillon is prepared with four pounds of the brisket of beef; place it in a glazed stewpan. Pour over it three quarts of cold water, add three teaspoonfuls of salt; place it at the side of a fire, and carefully remove the scum as it rises; allow the regular slow heat for four hours, occasionally adding a teaspoonful of cold water, when quite clear, add two turnips, two carrots, one leek, one fried onion with two cloves in it, a head of celery, a bunch of parsley, with a bouquet of sweet herbs, and let it steep for one hour more. Take out then the bouilli, or boiled meat, and the vegetables, and strain the soup, which is served French fashion, poured over slices of bread at the bottom of the tureen, or English fashion, with small squares of bread. The bouilli, used as a remove to the soup, should be sent in with the vegetables neatly arranged around it.—Interview with Vanderbilt's cook.

Recalling Past Favors.
Tramp (to editor, who is hurrying past)—Say, couldn't you help me a little, please? I gave you a boost once.
Editor—What do you mean, fellow?
Tramp—Don't you remember that burglary by Jim Crackitt and his pals some years ago?
Editor—Yes.
Tramp—And how your reports of it just set the *Howler's* circulation a boom?
Editor—Yes.
Tramp—Well, I'm Jim!—Puck.

I DARE venture nothing without a strict examination; and am as much ashamed to put a loose, undigested play upon the public as to offer brass money in a payment.—Dryden.

WORTH creates enemies, but it is above them.

"No," said the butter ball; "these are not hard times with me."

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Notes on the Lesson for August 5—"The Burnt Offering."

[From the Chicago Standard.]
The lesson for above date may be found in the first nineteen verses of the first chapter of Leviticus.

WHAT THE LESSON TEACHERS.

And the Lord called unto Moses. The call of God in the Mosaic rite. For three lessons now we shall be listening to these meaningful chapters. First, in the burnt-offering; next, in the sin-offering; finally, in one of the feasts, the feast of tabernacles. In each God makes his holy nature and his gracious purpose known. The Old Testament is full of intimations of God's love to a lost world. God speaks to us through Moses and the law. By putting all the utterances together we make up our conception of the divine character. It is something like a composite photograph in things of sight. A boy had lost a dear little sister whose face was only in his memory. He asked so often for her picture that at last a famous artist took the lad to a children's picture-gallery. "There," said the boy, pointing to one portrait, "those were her eyes; that," pointing to another, "was like her mouth." The artist put them all together and made a good portrait. So we gather up the scattered glimpses in the Scriptures, and on the heart's tablet there stands out clear and distinct the image of the Father.

One of the tabernacles of the congregation.
How full of God that ancient tabernacle was! The mercy-seat, the ark of the covenant with its law-tablet, its pot of manna and its budding rod, the incense altar, the show-bread and the golden candlestick—all said God is nigh. That ancient tabernacle sanctified all the earth and taught us to find with reverent hearts God everywhere. Through its rent veil shines earth and sky, ocean and landscape, testifying of God. The heart of man is his holy place, all nature the tent of his tabernacle. Let all life take on sacredness, let every avocation be a worthy ministry. "God is now-here," wrote the infidel; "God is now-here," his little daughter spelled it. God enable us to speak often as in the presence of his Father, and to be ever peering his heart and thinking with overflowing heart of his new-found hope, half unconsciously sang out when asked for the password. "The precious blood of Christ!" The word went like an arrow straight to the heart of a comrade. We are in God's tabernacle. His redeeming work is going on all around us. Let us listen for words out of the tabernacle of the congregation, and speak them, too.

A burnt sacrifice. There were five offerings in all. Leviticus I. tells us of the burnt sacrifice, as coming from the herd of cattle (v. 2), of the flock of sheep (v. 3), of the fatted fowls (v. 14). The second chapter tells of the meal offering, which was to be of fine flour (v. 1), or an offering baked in the oven (v. 4), or an oblation of fruits (v. 12). The third chapter introduces the peace-offering, the fourth the sin-offering and the fifth the trespass-offering. The peculiar mark of the burnt-offering was its completeness, and that signified simply the character of the offering, but as to the thoroughness of its consumption. Whatever else it vaguely or passively intimated, its completeness was its essential character. Hence a better golden text for this lesson would be Rom. 12: 1: "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God." The one chosen by the committee (Lev. 5: 3-9) would seem to us more applicable to the succeeding lesson. In a word, with the sin and trespass offerings they came for expiation; with the burnt-offering, for dedication; with the meal-offering, for thanksgiving; and with the peace-offering, for supplication. Four altars there are in the Christian life, correspondingly, and the robe which tells most of all is the altar of burnt-offering or consecration.

Let him offer a male. There was a prescribed pattern. Of that we have a vague hint in the contrasted sacrifices of Cain and Abel. In the burnt-offering, but of the spontaneousness, there was mark of divine authority and sovereignty. At this point the demand upon man was simply obedience. With him there was no sin, and the essential character of the sacrifice. It was to be a living male, either of the herd or of the flock, or in case of poverty, of the fowls. At any rate, there was to be a living sacrifice, under prescribed limitations, to fulfill the import of the offering. Suppose one had come then and said, all that is needed is the answer of a good conscience, and a measure of fine flour, and a cluster of the fruit of the vine. What would it have been? A meat-offering, at least, you say. No. It was not offered as a grateful offering, but as a solemn dedication. As such it would be a human sacrifice, a travesty, a plain disobedience of the clear and explicit requirements of God. In ordinances of obedience let us above all obey. O yes, friend, at the altar, a few drops gracefully sprinkled on the infant's face that is very pretty as an act of consecration; but soberly, ought you to call it baptism, in loyalty to Christ's expressed command?

Without blemish. This was the other requirement. First the sacrifice was to be exact, after the pattern set in the mount. It was to be complete, perfect after its kind. No partial offering would suffice, no lame or limping kine, no dwarfed sheep. Alas, that it should ever be so. We come to make a perfect sacrifice, the whole burnt-offering, body, soul, and spirit, consecrated to God. And we withhold just a little. Some chosen folly, some darling sin, an idol of the heart is reserved. A trifle it is, only a trifle—but that is enough. The spring of our offering returns. Remember Ananias and Sapphira. Without blemish. There are no such things as trifles in matters of love and devotion. The least withholding of loyal homage or affection indicated the presence of another love, another master. Take an everyday illustration. There is before us one of Cheyne Brady's picture stories. A man is sitting by a night lamp holding his watch in one hand and a tilted pipe in the other. He has promised not to smoke for a year, and watch and tobacco ready are in front of him. He is tempted, and the old year. To-morrow he will smoke away the living day. And the question asked above the picture is pertinent, "Have you asked your Master's leave?"

The door of the tabernacle. Two things are employed in this. First of all: it was the initial sacrifice after entrance at the gate of the court. Before any other of the sweet levitical offerings could be made, this preliminary rite of consecration was to be performed. All things were to be done, as subsequently noted, "in order." It is an important principle. If you feel that God for Christ's sake has forgiven your sins, come first to this altar and come at once. In the second place, it was a public and open act. The self-dedication was made where the eye could be witnessed by others. Once this is in the limited experience we have known or heard of persons asking entrance to the church by private ceremony. Is it ever either wise or orderly to grant it?

Next Lesson, "The Day of Atonement," Lev. xvi. 1-10.

The largest single check ever given was by John D. Taylor, treasurer of the Pennsylvania Company. It was drawn payable to order of Lee Livingston & Co. for \$14,256,196, on the National Bank of Commerce, of New York City.

An elm tree growing in the grounds of the Pennsylvania Hospital, in Philadelphia, is a scene of the famous tree under which William Penn held the first treaty with the Indians.

In most cases if seed-corn has been well sown and the soil is well mellowed, and early planting takes and keeps the lead, even with heavy beating rain following. The farmer profits above all men from taking time by the forelock.

"No," said the butter ball; "these are not hard times with me."

IOWA R. R. TROUBLE.

An Important Decision Rendered by Judge Brewer, of the United States Court.

The Injunction Against the Iowa Commissioners Continued—A Point in Favor of the Roads.

[Leavenworth (Kan.) special.]

About three weeks ago the Northwestern Railroad Company applied to Judge Brewer, of the Eighth Circuit, for an injunction to restrain the Railroad Commissioners of Iowa from enforcing a schedule of transportation rates which it had made under the authority of the Iowa Legislature, on the grounds that the rates were so low that they would bankrupt the road and that the Legislature can not delegate its power of fixing rates. A temporary injunction hearing was held at Leavenworth, Kan. Judge Brewer has made a decision which continues the temporary injunction. The decision says:

The first question considered was this: Whether a suit against the Railroad Commissioners to enjoin them from putting in force a schedule of rates was a suit against the State within the purview of the eleventh amendment and therefore one of which the Federal Court could not take jurisdiction. Chief Justice Marshall had ruled that unless the State was named as a party it was not a suit against the State, but the Supreme Court has adopted a more liberal view, and holds that it, although not named in the record, the State is the real party in interest, and against whom judgment will operate. It is to be considered as a suit against the State. Applying this rule, Judge Brewer held that the suit is a party to this suit, that it is not the real party in interest, the one to be affected by the judgment and upon whom it will operate. The real parties being the railroad companies on the one side and the shippers on the other, and that the State has only that remote interest which springs from the fact that the rates are fixed by the Legislature.

The next question considered was this: Can the Legislature delegate power to fix rates to a railroad commission, and if so, is such a commission recognized by the Constitution? The Supreme Court has held that the power to fix rates is a legislative power, and it is generally true that the Legislature cannot delegate its power to another body. Notwithstanding this Judge Brewer declines to hold that the delegation is unconstitutional for several reasons, the principal ones being these: An act will not be declared unconstitutional unless clearly so. There is no inherent vice in delegating power; it is a commission, the vital question being with both carrier and shipper that the rates prescribed be fair and reasonable; second, the body they shall be put in force. It is a question for the final determination of the Supreme Court of the State, and it is therefore the Federal Court should not anticipate its decision. Courts of sister States have sustained similar delegation of power, and, therefore, there is a probability that this will be sustained by the Supreme Court of Iowa.

The third principal question is whether the Legislature has the power to fix rates, and if so, is it a question of the rates of the railroad companies, and the question is answered in the negative. Judge Brewer holds that the Legislature cannot fix rates so low as to not furnish some compensation to the railroad company and reimburse itself to meet first, the cost of service; second, the fixed charges by way of interest; and, third, something, however small, in the way of dividend. He further holds that while from the volume of the testimony offered upon this application it is not clearly established that the schedule proposed by the railroad companies will fail of producing compensation, yet there is a probability that it will, and therefore a preliminary injunction is appropriate to stay the operation of the schedule until the matter can be brought to the attention of the Supreme Court of Iowa.

The question not yet being settled that the rates of the Commissioners are reasonable in the sense that Judge Brewer used the word the injunction is continued for further hearing on that point. It is expected that sixty days at least will be required to furnish such testimony.

OPINIONS OF BUSINESS MEN.
The Nature of the Decision Caused Little Surprise at Des Moines (Iowa special.)
[Des Moines (Iowa) special.]
The decision of Judge Brewer granting temporary injunction against the Railroad Commissioners did not cause much surprise in Des Moines. Gov. Larrabee said: "This is about what I expected. I had thought for some time that Judge Brewer would probably grant the injunction, and I think that he has done so. The rates of the railroad companies are so low that they are not reasonable, and it is expected that they will be raised." Other prominent men interviewed said they thought Judge Brewer had taken the strongest position possible in granting his injunction on the ground of the question as to the reasonableness of the rates. They said the law could not compel anybody to do business at a loss, and that it was no more than fair that a full opportunity should be given to show that the present rates were unreasonable. On the whole, public sentiment sustains Judge Brewer, regarding his decision in the light of a suspension of judgment for the present rather than a victory either for the railroads or for the Commissioners.

Our Foreign Commerce.
The Chief of the Bureau of Statistics reports that a comparison of the values of our foreign commerce for the fiscal year just closed shows an increase of \$1,338,786 in the total value of the imports and exports of merchandise. There was a decrease of \$20,208,592 in the value of exports, but an increase of \$31,545,378 in the value of the imports. The value of the imports exceeded that of our exports \$27,890,527, the former being \$723,865,146 and the latter \$695,974,619.

Approved by the President.
The President has approved the post-office appropriation bill; the act for a bridge across the Mississippi River at Wabasha, Minn.; the act to construct a road to the national cemetery at Baton Rouge, La.; the joint resolution electing managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers; and the act for a bridge across the Arkansas River near Cumming Landing, Ark.

Earnings of Quaker Railroads.
The report of the Reading Railroad and Coal and Iron Company shows an increase in net earnings over the same month last year of \$25,120. The report shows a decrease in net earnings for the last seven months of \$1,505,845. The report of the Pennsylvania Company shows an increase in net earnings for June of \$10,000, and a decrease for the last six months of \$91,625.

Victims of a Kentucky Feud.
Two more men were reported killed in the French-Eversole feud at Hazard, Ky. Shad Combs was shot down from ambush while mounting his horse at his home, ten miles from town, and the day before John Campbell, a brother-in-law of J. C. Eversole, was killed at his store at Hazard.

In determining the amount of profit, the cost must be taken into consideration, no matter how cheap we can keep a hog it costs something every day in one way or another.